

## Writing a Conclusion to an Argument With Claims and Counterclaims

One way to write a scientific conclusion is to use an argument writing style with claims and counterclaims. You will use evidence to support both the claim and counterclaim. The evidence may come from data collected experimentally or from research you conducted using other resources. You should have multiple pieces of evidence for each claim and counterclaim. You must synthesize your argument by analyzing and evaluating the strength of each piece of evidence for both the claim and counterclaim.

### Argument Writing

- Introduces claim(s) about a topic or issue, acknowledges and distinguishes the claim(s) from alternative or opposing claims, and organizes the reasons and evidence logically.
- Supports claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant, accurate data and evidence that demonstrates an understanding of the topic or text, using credible sources.
- Uses words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), reasons, and evidence.
- Establishes and maintains a formal style.
- Provides a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.

### Step 1: Make a claim.

Be sure that your claim is based on what you already know or have learned about this topic or issue.

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### Step 2: What is the evidence that supports the claim?

- Supporting evidence \_\_\_\_\_

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Source: \_\_\_\_\_ (experimental data, notes, textbook, website....)

This is a ☐ primary source ☐ secondary source

- Supporting evidence \_\_\_\_\_

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Source: \_\_\_\_\_ (experimental data, notes, textbook, website....)

This is a ☐ primary source ☐ secondary source

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

- Supporting evidence \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ (experimental data, notes, textbook, website....)

This is a ☐ primary source ☐ secondary source

- Supporting evidence \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ (experimental data, notes, textbook, website....)

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### Step 3: Make a counterclaim.

A counterclaim is an argument that negates your original claim. It provides a different perspective on the topic. Be sure that your counterclaim is based on what you already know or have learned about this topic or issue.

### Step 4: What is the evidence that supports the counterclaim?

- Supporting evidence \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ (experimental data, notes, textbook, website....)

This is a ☐ primary source ☐ secondary source

- Supporting evidence \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ (experimental data, notes, textbook, website....)

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Analyze the supporting evidence and evaluate the strength of the support for your claim.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

**Formal style** is writing free of slang, trite expressions, abbreviations, symbols, email shortcut language, contractions, and the use of personal pronoun “I”. The writer does not speak directly to the reader by using the word you. Formal style ensures that readers are able to read and understand what is written.